

# Discussion of Grants to Remove Barriers to Attainment: The Fund for Excellence and Innovation

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STATE COUNCIL OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION FOR VIRGINIA

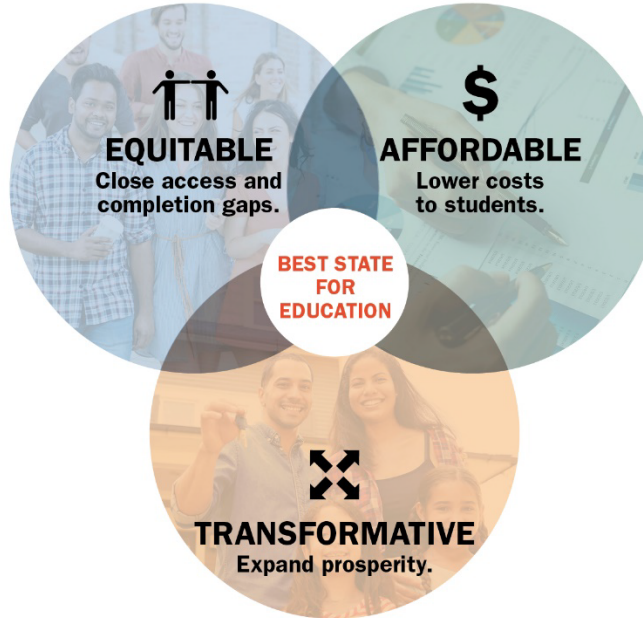
# Agenda

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- **Connection to Pathways to Opportunity: The Virginia Plan for Higher Education**
- **University Innovation Alliance – Background**
- **Fund for Excellence & Innovation**
- **Collaborative Equitable-Attainment Grant Competition**
- **Awards**

# Pathways to Opportunity - Goals

Remove barriers to access and attainment, especially for Black, Hispanic, Native American and rural students; students learning English as a second language; students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds; and students with disabilities.



Invest in and support the development of initiatives that provide cost savings to students while maintaining the effectiveness of instruction.

Increase the social, cultural and economic well-being of individuals and communities within the Commonwealth and its regions.

# Goal 2: Affordable – Lower Costs



## Supporting Strategy

**S.7: Foster program and administrative innovations** that enhance quality, promote collaboration and improve efficiency.

## Priority Initiative

**I.7: Fund an initiative focusing on institutional collaboration and innovations** to improve equitable student persistence and completion.

# University Innovation Alliance – Background

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## Established in 2014

Arizona State University

Georgia State University

Iowa State University

Michigan State University

North Carolina A&T State

University

The Ohio State University

Oregon State University

Purdue University

University of California

Riverside

University of Central Florida

UMBC

# University Innovation Alliance (cont'd)

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**Goal:** In 10 years, graduate 68,000 more students than they were otherwise projected to graduate; at least half of additional graduates from low-income backgrounds

**Result:** Goal met in 6 years and exceeded by 5,000 graduates; 36% more low-income graduates and 73% more graduates of color since the alliance started

# University Innovation Alliance (cont'd)

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## **Three-pronged commitment:**

- **Rapid experimentation;**
- **Deep collaboration; and**
- **Radical sharing of challenges, insights and data**

**Focus on what is and is not serving students – and what would serve them better**

# Fund for Excellence & Innovation

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**Established in 2016 by the General Assembly**

**Focus is:**

- 1. to stimulate collaborations among public school divisions, community colleges and universities and to expand affordable student pathways and**
- 2. to pursue shared services and other efficiency initiatives at colleges and universities that lead to measurable cost reductions**



# Fund for Excellence & Innovation (cont'd)

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## Previous use of funds

- **Affordable Pathways Partnership Grant:**  
support affordable pathway partnership expansion or implementation
- **Planning grants**
- **Efficiency conference**

# Collaborative Equitable-Attainment Grants

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**Institutions were asked to collaborate in teams:**

- **R1 research institutions**
- **Other four-year public institutions**
- **Four-year private, non-profit institutions**
- **Two-year public institutions**
- **HBCUs**

# Collaborative Grants (cont'd)

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**What are grantees required to do?**

- **Dive into data**
- **Identify any gaps in attainment**
- **Figure out what is and what is not serving students**
- **Literature search, discover potential solutions**
- **Design and implement a pilot project**
- **Assess the impact of the pilot intervention**
- **Write reports**
- **Share results**

# Collaborative Grant Awards

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**Proposals were received near the end of March.**

**And the grantees are . . .**

# Grant Awards

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## **Patrick & Henry Community College and Ferrum College**

Title: Improving Equity Among African American Males through Early Alert Support Systems

## **UVA-Wise and Mountain Empire Community College**

Title: Addressing Gaps through Equitable Pathways to Success

## **Radford University and New River Community College**

Title: Understanding the Needs and Challenges of Rural Students: The Role of Student Support in Successful Transfer